

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01109 150819Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 INR-07 INRE-00

/044 W

-----150829Z 035987 /11

O 150657Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3321

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1109

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEBANON -- TMA ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) STATE 53622, (B) BEIRUT 1054

1. ACCORDING TO BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THIS EMBASSY, TMA IS OWNED BY MUNIR ABU HAIDAR. HOWEVER, EXIM BANK LOAN STATEMENT OF JUNE 30, 1975, INDICATES TMA PURCHASED TWO BOEING 747'S FROM AMERICAN AIRLINES FOR GROSS LOAN VALUE OF \$56.5 MILLION. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO AND ARAMCO, WHICH IS ONE OF TMA'S PRINCIPAL CUSTOMERS, WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THIS TRANSACTION AND MAY HAVE ACQUIRED SOME CONTROL OF TMA AS A RESULT. EXIM SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS ON CURRENT STATUS OF THIS LOAN AND HOW IT AFFECTED FINANCIAL CONTROL OF TMA.

2. REGARDLESS OF WHO ACTUALLY CONTROLS OR OWNS TMA, ECONOMIC BENEFITS RESULTING FROM ITS ACTIVITIES CERTAINLY DO AFFECT LEBANON'S ECONOMY. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, TMA HAS ABOUT 60 SALES OFFICES AROUND THE WORLD, EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 1300 PEOPLE, MANY OF THEM IN LEBANON, AND IS IMPORTANT USER OF BEIRUT AIRPORT. ALTHOUGH TRAFFIC THROUGH BEIRUT AIRPORT HAS INCREASED, MANY INTERNATIONAL
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AIRLINES WHICH PREVIOUSLY CALLED HERE HAVE NOT YET RESUMED SERVICE. COLLAPSE OF TMA AT THIS TIME WOULD BE A SERVE BLOW BOTH PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY TO GOL EFFORTS TO REVIVE LEBANON'S ECONOMY.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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